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## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Community Development Department

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**BRIAN P. MURPHY**

*Assistant City Manager for  
Community Development*

**SUSAN GLAZER**

*Deputy Director for  
Community Development*

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Brian P. Murphy, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Date: May 11, 2011

Re: Policy Order 10 dated November 1, 2011: Report on ways the City can work with the MAPC on opportunities related to the \$4 million grant award to the MAPC on behalf of the Metro Boston Consortium for Sustainable Communities.

On October 15, 2010, HUD Regional Administrator Richard Walega announced the \$4 million Sustainable Communities Grant award at a press conference at MAPC's offices in Boston. MAPC received the federal grant on behalf of the Metro Boston Consortium for Sustainable Communities, a coalition created to implement the grant's planning work.

The grant will support implementation of our regional plan, MetroFuture, through local planning efforts, state and regional policy work, development of tools and data, and capacity building for local residents and leaders. The award is part of a \$100 million program to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. Metro Boston was one of 45 regions to receive an award, which range in size from \$225,000 to \$5 million. The Metro Boston grant is one of only a dozen awards that are \$4 million or larger.

These grants are part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings HUD, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency together to ensure that the agencies' policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together.

The grants are awarded through one of two categories. One category of grants will assist regional planning for sustainable development where such plans do not currently exist. A second category of funding will support the implementation of existing sustainability plans.

The City of Cambridge submitted a proposal to MAPC for a grant allocation under this initiative. When the MAPC application was filed on August 23rd, the regional consortium included 55 municipalities (representing 71% of the region's 3.1 million residents), state agencies, community based organizations, advocacy groups, academic institutions, business interests, foundations, public housing authorities, and other partners; the Cambridge proposal was not a listed project in this submission. Nonetheless, the City of Cambridge has signed on as a member of the consortium and will continue to participate in discussions on the use of the funds, including the possibility of an allocation for implementation of existing sustainability plans in Cambridge.

City staff attended the kick-off consortium meeting on April 12, 2011, where the Consortium Committee members were elected. While some large regional projects have already been selected for funding, the Committee will determine the criteria for additional projects, with an RFP to go out in the fall.

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